

MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting of: **Wednesday, April 26, 2017**
Leawood City Hall, Main Conference Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

James Azeltine, CHAIR and Councilmember Ward 4
Debra Filla, Vice Chair and Councilmember Ward 1
Lisa Harrison, Councilmember Ward 3
Skip Johnson
Steven Kaster, Councilmember Ward 2
John Kahl
Carole Lechevin
David Lindley

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Curt Talcott

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe Johnson, P.E., Director of Public Works
David Ley, P.E., City Engineer
Julie Stasi, Admin. Services Manager, Public Works Department

GUESTS:

Stacey Moore, Homes Association President Bradford Place, 3604 W 122nd Street, Leawood, KS 66209

Chair Azeltine called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

Introductions of members, guests and staff. Chair Azeltine advised he would re-arrange the order of the meeting's business in order to hear our guests concerns first (New Business) before the continuation of Old Business is discussed.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS: Previous Meeting Minutes

ACTION: With a few typos corrected; Lisa Harrison made a Motion to approve the past Minutes of March 29, 2017, as corrected. Steven Kaster seconded the Motion to approve. All members in attendance were in favor. Motion passed; Minutes approved.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS: (NEW BUSINESS) Review Creek Erosion Concerns in Bradford

Place Subdivision. Joe Johnson described the area between 121st Terrace, 122nd Street Cul-de-sac in Bradford Place east of Mission Road and west of Pawnee Lane. Joe described the creek and how it lays, then drops off. There is lots of debris down in the channel. As you move down the channel there is a lot less erosion and impact of the channel. Heavily wooded area and Joe Johnson advised that when the subdivision was platted, a Natural Preservation Easement was given to the City in order to limit improvements within the easement.

Stacey Moore, Homes Association President brought more pictures of the erosion/trees in the creek in between the houses. Ms. Moore spoke about how the creek area has eroded over the years and concerns about the loss of large trees and worry of the erosion along the creek and back yards.

The Committee viewed pictures/map of the area.

Joe Johnson-Part of the channel looks very good with little or no erosion. However the thing to look at would probably be more at the upper end of the channel and doing a stilling basin or something. Making improvements where the water comes out of the pipe, so the water is stopped and slows velocities down so there are not high velocities. From what he saw, when you walk it, the first 50, 60, 70 feet of it has the highest erosion. The channel flattens out and the flat area is not as eroded or as deep as the beginning. Several things could be done. You could arm the wall and the sides. You could put large stones or obstacles down in the bottom of the area so the water hits the blocks. You could do a distilling basin where you would need to excavate below the lining of the channel so when the first rain comes, it will fill up a foot or two for forty or fifty feet. So as the water discharges out (like when discharging water to a lake). The water would come out of the pipe and be in a pool area; that would cause it to lose its energy. That is what we did with 143rd Street with a triple-cell box underneath 143rd on the downstream side.

Lisa Harrison-We are not talking about a large project/as severe as what you had to do up in north Leawood with a big creek lined stone where you did cement, right?

Joe Johnson-Correct that was kind of a different project with a concrete lined channel. That didn't have the capacity. There is not a flooding issue here. This is just an erosion issue of the channel. The tree photos are towards the upper end of the channel.

James Azeltine-How many houses are affected by this?

Joe Johnson-About a dozen.

James Azeltine-You used the term "Preservation Easement". What do you mean by that?

Joe Johnson-When the area was platted, there is a great big easement that was platted with it and they called it a Natural Preservation Easement. It was given to the City; basically to limit improvements within the easement.

Steven Kaster-Actually lives near the easement area. Actually they are forbidden to put fences on top of it.

James Azeltine-Usually when I hear the term easement it is so that we (the City) can go in and do something. This is kind of a flip of that isn't it?

Joe Johnson-Well it is and it isn't. This is somewhat unique. A lot of times what they will do is make it a private tract or it is an easement dedicated to the Homes Association. And basically it does exactly that, it restricts people from putting fences or making improvements within the area. When this was done, the easement is actually dedicated to the City; not that it was giving the City responsibility to maintain it, but giving the City the right if the City had to get in there we would have the right to do that. Which if we do improvements, it means that once we are within that easement the City would not have to secure easements because it has already been granted.

James Azeltine-And the home owners property lines go up to the easement? So there is no HOA easement in there?

Joe Johnson-No.

Lisa Harrison-If there were an HOA Easement, then it would be their responsibility to take care of this.

Joe Johnson-Right, it would be solely their responsibility.

John Kahl-This area was built out in the 80's?

Joe Johnson-Yes. In the 1980s.

John Kahl-And that easement was put on at the time it was all done? That was rather advanced for them and in their thinking. We were in the 2000's before that became commonplace.

Stacey Moore-It was not a wet creek bed at that time. At that time it was just a preservation area. It wasn't like what we see now with a 10 to 20 foot creek that has a serious water shed. It was just a trickle low place that was a wooded area. They wanted them to keep wooded. It was something different than what it is now. Now that it has all the stormwater from the streets above it.

Carole Lechevin-So upstream, changes occurred.

Stacey Moore-There's always water in it. There are pictures of trees without soil underneath them. There is water in it all the time now, not just when it rains.

James Azeltine-Joe, if we went in here and did some kind of a project would it all be within that easement?

Joe Johnson-Yes.

Carole Lechevin-Some of the pictures looked like people were dumping lawn debris and other things in the area. Why isn't Code Enforcement involved? Assuring that this is a preserved easement and not a trash dump?

Joe Johnson-My guess is no one has probably called Codes about it.

Carole Lechevin-Because that adds to the problem. And if the residents don't realize it, that adds to the misery and obviously we need to educate them.

Stacey Moore-Most of that too is trying to create a bank for your property. When I called the City maybe five or six years ago. Because I actually had settling in my yard in the grass, there was settling by a few inches. We were actually told to lay things against the bank to protect our bank. We had a large, 60, 70 foot life tree that slid down the bank. It lost all of it's ground. Our address is 3604 W 122nd Street. We were actually told to line any kind of wood we had across that bank just to protect our bank because there is no soil for the trees. It's just comes through and it takes all the soil out from under the trees. And they are large trees, they are not little.

Carole Lechevin-This isn't uncommon. I've got the same thing in my back yard. Isn't this considered a waters of the US?

Joe Johnson-No, it's no different than most of the natural channels we have all over north Leawood, north of I-435 that are let to run natural. When these developments came in, one or two things they either left them natural channel or they took the stormwater off the street and put it to the back yard and let it turn into a natural channel and let it run. So not much different than what we deal with in most natural channels within the City of Leawood. Whether there is an easement or not, it is a natural channel. The easement really is a restricted easement; but it does give the City the ability if the City wants to go in and make improvements without having to go get easements.

Lisa Harrison-It gives them the ability.

Joe Johnson-It gives them the ability but it doesn't obligate the City the responsibility to maintain it. A natural channel it is no different than any natural channel we have in the City.

Debra Filla-We have collective events. Every house throws extra water down the stream and we are not (we certainly were not back then) saying each property has to keep the water on their own property. Home by home by home.

John Kahl-Yeah, but we can't do that Deb. We can't keep the water on each property, we have flat clay soils and almost no matter what you do unless everyone makes their lot a lake, they can't keep their own water-it has to run downhill.

Debra Filla-Well then we have to create drainage things to collect it right?

Stacey Moore-None of this property is flat, the yards are not flat and they all go back. We all have walk out basements and it's not flat going towards the creek and it's not flat going down the cul-de-sac. Everything runs downhill and we are also catching water from a street or two up. And there is stormwater coming under the ground and coming out at that location. All the water from upstream is coming out at that location. So it's not just a few house and their water.

Debra Filla-I wanted to make the point that Joe was talking about taking care of the water off of the street. That is not the main water that is accumulating. It is a compounding issue. It's not just that we put a street in somewhere, I do not think the water in the culvert is the only water we are seeing.

John Kahl-Regarding the pictures that I saw that Joe took where you walked down the channel it looked primarily like the biggest issue was in the first 100 feet or so. Would that be accurate? Where you stopped and looked back up, is it an optical illusion or is the channel a lot steeper in the front part?

Stacy Moore-Where some of the trees to the left of me have the roots exposed.

Joe Johnson-Oh yes. It is steeper and then it flattens out.

Stacey Moore-Where I took one of the pictures there is a 4 to 5 foot difference where the water has taken all the root system out from under the trees.

Steven Kaster-It sounds like if we could fix the upper 100 feet like we were talking about, it would help that area and then probably help downstream too. To slow the water down.

Debra Filla-How long does it take for this kind of erosion to happen?

Joe Johnson-A while.

Debra Filla-Years in the making, twenty-thirty years from the day it went in there. Slowly but surely. Just as a perspective. How much does this happen if we were to just go out into the woods, does this not also happen? Where we start to see things start to erode and the tree falls down.

Joe Johnson-Yes.

James Azeltine-So we are talking about roughly a dozen houses. You had mentioned maybe putting something there on the front end to slow the water down.

Joe Johnson-Whatever option you pick, it would be to control the water that discharges out of the pipe at the one end.

Lisa Harrison-Would you replace any of the soil or bring in gravel?

Joe Johnson-No. You would what we call armor the bank in this location for forty to fifty feet. And armor the bottom with rock/concrete, something other than soil.

Skip Johnson-Yes you would have to in fact armor the creek. (Agreeing with what Joe is saying)...the velocity coming down is going to continue to erode. So you armor it with rocks or some type of hard surface. It does not have to be a concrete basin or anything like that. It can be armored in different ways. Natural armoring is used these days with blocks and things you put in, grasses that grow up through it so it can look more natural. But it is still armored/protected.

James Azeltine-Is that a solution then? How likely is that to cause somebody a problem on the front end?

Carole Lechevin-You have to maintain it. Over time.

John Kahl-If designed properly it shouldn't create an additional problem downstream because downstream is already getting the same water that it has been getting.

Carole Lechevin-Lets back up because you still have issues downstream with people who dump their leaves and their yard debris that makes the stream edge unstable and prone to erosion and it sounds to me like we only do Code Enforcement on a call in basis. Maybe we need to back up and say why aren't our inspectors looking at those creek beds and seeing whose dumping leaves? I know it happens on my street a lot. And I'm there, but I don't want to be the bad guy who calls my neighbor in.

James Azeltine-And that's the way a lot of people are.

Carole Lechevin-So why aren't we being pro-active and protecting our stream edges with the inspectors that we have? Was that a dumb question?

James Azeltine-I think the answer to that first question is just a resource allocation thing. We have three (3) Codes people and believe me they are busy people. They spend most of their time following up on calls and complaints and things like that.

Stacey Moore-That could very much be my job. My question is, does that debris hurt our bank or help our bank? Because I think we are under the belief; and I have personally been told like where that tree took off-we have actually staked that area and anytime we have trees we armor it ourselves with trees and tree pieces that are branched in there trying to protect our bank. And hopefully it does not look too tacky. Just to protect our bank so that we don't lose our trees. So some of it, I am very much guilty of it. But it is not because I'm trying to dump in my creek, it's because I'm trying to protect my creek from taking off down the stream.

Lisa Harrison-There could be a need for some educational ideas.

Debra Filla-It almost ties into part two of our discussion today with our BMP Program. It sounds like if you do not know, and it obviously is not the greatest factor but if everyone does not know not to do it, it sounds like we could gather a group of neighbors and do an educational session about natural areas. We could explain our program where we can help provide matching dollars for grasses, gardens and maybe also for trees. If everybody wants to put in a rain barrel, that all can help. If the armor is place in the beginning and everyone does their little bit to help then we have done a lot more than what we have done here today.

Stacey Moore-And for myself and Steve, when we purchased our properties they both were landscaped all the way to the edge and we have let ours go natural because of the erosion. We have made it less attractive because I'm trying to keep some root system there to keep my soil in place. And most are doing that. Most all the way down it is not maintained.

Steven Kaster-The way I look at it; obviously none of us were here 30 years ago but if there is an underground sewer in one spot/storm drain. And then 150 to 200 feet down you have another. It was poorly designed from the beginning, the City should have realized this issue was going to happen over time and when the development was done they should have done a full underground system. To me that makes the most sense because this area is a very hilly terrain. I'm not an engineer but somebody should have looked at it.

Joe Johnson-Well it's always about dollars and cents. It had nothing to do with the engineers. The developers have a set amount of money and they made out a natural area and dedicated the easement. Back then, they probably saved \$150,000 to \$200,000 by not putting in a storm sewer.

James Azeltine-Usually when we have a situation like this either the property line runs all the way to the creek or there is an HOA Easement in there. And we basically have to say this is private property and we cannot do anything. But here is this preservation easement and I think we have an opportunity to do something. Also since there is a dozen house that are potentially affected by this. My experience is if it is only a couple houses we cannot go out and fix all those problems. Joe, what is the possibility of being able to que something up for the 1/8 cent sales tax as a project to maybe put in the Leawood CIP?

Joe Johnson-It would be a couple years out. I think the funding for the next two to three years has already been obligated.

James Azeltine-I won't even come close to holding you to this, but what would be the guess on estimating a cost for something like that be?

Joe Johnson-To just do a treatment with design and construction probably between \$50,000 and \$100,000. There are lots of options. You could put a storm sewer all the way down but then you are looking probably close to a million dollars. And you would end up ripping out a 30' to 40' wide path all the way down it. If you did, we would end up paying.

John Kahl-I do not think the Corp of Engineers would permit that. They would say it is unnecessary justification and not let you do that.

Joe Johnson-That would be the challenge. If you did get it permitted we would be paying money into a preservation. With permission from the Corp of Engineers. Possibly spend a million dollars. That is a lot of money to spend on a natural channel that is eroding which is very similar to what we have everywhere else. We get calls all the time. Especially up in north Leawood. Unless the City Council allocates funds to do projects such as these. This area, it is easier because there is a dedicated easement. The only easement I would need to get is an Access Easement that allows us to get from the street back to the creek. That is the difference here; there is an easement available, so we do not have to go to each individual property owner and ask for an easement in their back yard. We would still have to go through the same process with the Corp of Engineers. And they more than likely would approve because we are going to benefit it and stabilize and improve the downstream channel. We would still have to go through the process and get a permit to do whatever work we are going to do.

Debra Filla-There are two challenges. There is the funding and there is also the permit.

Joe Johnson-The permitting is fairly quick. Once something is designed and submitted. Possibly three to four months. Four to five months for design. As far as funding, we are talking about years to come up with funds.

Lisa Harrison-Is there any way to move it-get it done faster if the Homes Association pays for part of it and the City pays for part of it?

Joe Johnson-My guess is our share would come out of the 1/8 cent sales tax.

James Azeltine-We have an Ordinance where there is a 90/10 split right? Where the HOA would pay 90% and the City pay 10%. At our goal setting session this past year I suggested we look in to the possibility of making that closer to 50%/50%. With the County, they have a stormwater program where they gets funds of the City and they pay 80% of the project. And I thought it would be nice for the City to have something like that for things like this.

Dave Lindley-I wonder if you do that up front, is that really going to help downstream? How much will it help?

Joe Johnson-As you move down the velocity's have slowed down. So here on down, the channel bank is stable. It is not eroded and I was walking up and down it. I could walk across it bank to bank. As I got up, to the other end there was no way I could I had to climb down and climb back up.

Steven Kaster-You mentioned at one end you had to climb down and climb out, but the other end is not like that. Eventually the other end may get like that. What happens then, say a homeowner and their little children come up against that. Would a homeowner have to put railings there to keep it safe? What happens then? If there is a relatively cheap and easy fix that could be made to the upper end that will slow things down at least keep things from getting worse. I think then the residents would be very happy with that.

James Azeltine-Joe, what would be the first step in getting something drawn up and getting this queued up and placement in the CIP?

Joe Johnson-This actually would need to go through a budget approval. We can go back in and look at the CIP and see what year we have funding available in the 1/8th cent sales tax program. Then assuming this recommendation is from the Committee, and what the Governing Body then decides. Assuming the recommendation is valid, and \$50 to \$100,000 and Council agrees with it.

James Azeltine-If that is the number, it sounds like you are helping a lot of people for a small amount of money.

Joe Johnson-Once the Council approves that, then we just look into the CIP and we look at the first year we have funding available. Then in the CIP of that year we will show Bradford Place Stormwater Project \$100,000.00.

Debra Filla-Regarding the rock/armor application, is there any short term fix that we can do that is low cost?

Joe Johnson-If the HOA wants to do that, but that. I'm not sure but they probably would have to get permission from the Corp first. If the City goes in there, the City has to ask for permission and ask for all the rules to do any work.

Debra Filla-Is it useful to do without being detrimental? Forgetting all the other constraints, those do not matter if it is not useful.

John Kahl-Yes if a well thought out and designed support is done, it would be useful. But just dumping a load of rocks back there might fix it a little bit but it might make it worse.

Carole Lechevin-So if it is going to be a few years down the road anyway, what can the HOA and residents do on their end to help? Looking at the neighbors upstream, maybe having everybody putting in a rain barrel. Even though it is a rain barrel, it is a little bit of a collection point. Everything upstream collects.

Debra Filla-Looking at all the houses and area upstream and asking where all that water comes from.

James Azeltine-That is all fine and good, but that doesn't change the dynamics of that channel coming in off the street.

Debra Filla-I agree. But we always just think about taking care of the water coming directly in off the street but that isn't all the water that is being mitigated. It will not be any sooner than a year just because of the process of permitting and designing this.

Joe Johnson-Most likely 2018 or 2019 is when this could be scheduled at the earliest.

John Kahl-Has the problem gotten suddenly worse in the last year or two? Or is it something that has been getting worse and worse over time?

Stacey Moore-We have lost two large trees in this past couple of years. If we have a heavy rain from my property, I can see it white water going up in that area.

James Azeltine-We are running into some time issues here. If we wanted to do something the next step would be for this Committee to recommend to the Council that the staff investigate this, come up with a plan of action including costs and then put it in queue. In other words, when the funding becomes available, we would do it and it wouldn't take priority over any other project.

Debra Filla-Makes a Motion that we recommend to the City Council that we support and incorporate this project into the 1/8 cent sales tax funding or Capital Improvement Program so staff can look at the design and cost and have it added to the budget prioritized with whatever is already in the queue. And to add with the concurrence of the HOA President, I would like to include an educational session that we offer to the Homes Association to show how they can use the matching dollars. They should start with planting some trees for the loss and also how to mitigate that edge so they can make it functional.

Steve Kaster-Seconded the motion.

Lisa Harrison-How many homes are in Bradford Place?

Stacey Moore-There are seventy-two (72) homes in Bradford Place.

Lisa Harrison-I really like the component about the rain barrels. But if 72 people/homeowners also want to learn about the impact of rain barrels, I think anytime the City is spending it's money to fix a problem that nature has created, I think we owe it to the City to say in return we are going to educate about how they can be a part of the solution. Not just with trees and planting but they can make a big difference with trees, planting and rain barrels.

John Kahl-Maybe up in the older portions of Leawood I'm guessing we have areas like that where they would benefit from education too. The problem like this is if we do it for this area, where do we stop?

James Azeltine-what makes this unique is that "Preservation Easement".

John Kahl-Yes in my mind, the only reason that this is different than what we face with other similar issues in north Leawood is that there is a Preservation Easement. There is an easement that the City holds back there which sort of infers some sort of responsibility or obligation. But I want to make clear that.

James Azeltine-Don't we usually have to go in and get an easement where people back up to the creek? So that is extra.

John Kahl-Yes. But the City in the past has come and taken the position of "we don't really have the money to go fix all these problems any time soon. So once we say yes to one, Katy bar the door. There are a lot of areas like this. In my mind if we are going to do this, we need to differentiate this from all the other problems in some way so that the next one that comes in and says they need help too.

James Azeltine-Before this morning I had never heard of a Preservation Easement.

John Kahl-Before this morning I didn't know the City had such a thing back in the 1980's.

Joe Johnson-Before I looked at this, I didn't know we had one. It is somewhat unique.

John Kahl-I'm generally of the opinion that stormwater should be a public responsibility because in this area no one individual homeowner in any area in most cases in Leawood in a subdivision: no

individual homeowner owns enough land where they can have any substantial effect by just fixing a private problem. And then getting this home owner and this home owner and all the ones all strung together to do the same thing simultaneously would become very challenging. So in a general sense that is why I believe stormwater should be kind of a public issue and not a private issue. But at the same time, the City was founded and developed and that wasn't the way things were laid out when Leawood was initiated and growing. And so we have all these problems. Whereas if we say okay we are just going to assume all responsibility for all stormwater, now how are we going to pay for that? So in this particular instance the thing that points out to me of a difference is the City does have an easement down there which does infer some sort of responsibility or obligation and I want to make sure that that is a differentiator between this and some of the other projects that have come in before us.

Debra Filla-You made good points and that raises a question in my mind so if every home association or every group of homes wants to get together and create a Preservation Easement and give it to the City could they do that?

John Kahl-Well the City doesn't have to take it.

Joe Johnson-Right. The difference between- we accepted this through the Plat. They would have to give us an easement and that would have to be an easement accepted through the Governing Body.

James Azeltine-I know several different situations where the HOA has an easement, they would love to give it to the City, and the City doesn't want it.

Debra Filla-The second part of that is, I want to go back to the comment you made about the 90/10 split and making a change to that. Since I've been on Stormwater Committee, this has always been that grey area. This is part of stormwater. Right? But we don't even take responsibility when it's concrete.

Joe Johnson-Or when it's on City Property.

Debra Filla-On City Property or a street because we are part of that. But there is no way we could not count all of these creeks as part of our stormwater. It is part of stormwater. So can any one of these individuals mitigate that in that, as you say it will present itself time and time again. I think that is where we vary. We can continue the conversation or finish it up today. If in fact we are in agreement on this I do not think we have to do anything else for matching dollars this year. We could spend-this is our rain garden for \$75. So pay \$150 and match 50%; so every homeowner could be spending \$150 and if you get however many homes you can pretty much soak up the \$10,000 in matching funds and this could be our pilot.

James Azeltine-Any other discussion?

Debra Filla-The question is at looking at this 90/10, is there any other matching funds that could be?

James Azeltine-We set that as a goal. Or goal at the second session in January, for the Council I think we did and usually staff is pretty good about following up on these things.

Debra Filla-Well I think it is a discussion that I think we have a lot of talent here and we have a lot of perspectives about taking a consensus as to what the options are for us to consider. I think it's bigger than a break box.

John Kahl-It's really a budgetary matter.

Joe Johnson-If you want to fix stormwater projects you create a stormwater utility tax.

James Azeltine-In terms of the matching thing, I think what I will do is I'll speak with our City Administrator and ask where we are on that. And perhaps we make a motion to refer that issue back to this Committee.

Debra Filla-Yes. And also to address again and discuss and stress the stormwater utility.

Joe Johnson-If you are wanting to look at setting policy and providing opportunities and start looking for the City to take on more responsibility or natural channels, that is really the only secure funding mechanism.

Debra Filla-We have a 35 million dollar capital improvement and have ways to deal with the corrugated pipe that is rusting out. So it's not like we don't know we have this huge infrastructure to deal with. And water is kind of important for a whole lot of reasons. So maybe with the current State funding thing where they are trying to cap the property tax. Lou Rasmussen used to always argue it's six of one and half dozen of another against the utility tax but now that they are capping property tax, maybe this is the time where we ask to create a stormwater utility tax. It makes more sense because there is funding that we can gather.

James Azeltine-Right now the issue is whether we want to refer this project to the Council with what caveats in the motion. Any other discussion on that issue? I'm hearing no?

To the Motion that Debra Filla made: a Motion to recommend to Council that staff create a plan and estimated cost to make improvements as described and submit this project to include in the City's Capital Improvement Program; and in addition to schedule with the Homes Association of Bradford Place an educational session with the residents of the neighborhood regarding our BMP Cost Share Program (as it relates to planting trees and upkeep of the creek area/erosion information). Steven Kaster seconded the Motion.

All members present were in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

Joe Johnson-This assignment response/recommendation will be a June 5th Council Meeting recommendation; as the May 1 Council Meeting Agenda has been set for a couple weeks already.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS: (OLD BUSINESS) Continued Review of Johnson County BMP Cost Share Program.

Joe Johnson-At the last meeting we wanted to come back and see if any Committee Members had any ideas or direction on how we can promote our program with the County.

David Lindley-We want to get the word out. There is a program, there is money available, if they follow the instructions on the application they can be reimbursed...what is the best way to get the word out.

James Azeltine-The Lenexa stormwater engineer had a lot of great ideas. I'm not sure we should be in business of re-inventing the wheel.

David Lindley-Homes Associations are an excellent way to get it out there, not sure how the City uses their internet to connect and communicate. Activities, a brochure or something in the Parks and Recreation Guide. I think that is another opportunity. Maybe an article in the guide.

Lisa Harrison-How often do they send out the Parks & Rec Guide?

Staff-Twice a year in the Spring and Summer/Fall?

Lisa Harrison-Would like to see there be a concerted effort. I know there are several FaceBook pages for the different departments. There is the City Web Site certainly, but again people have to go there to look for information. I would like to see the information flowing the other direction. Where we are sending it out not hoping people come to us. And I know we can't do a lot of mass mailings, but between email distribution lists and the Parks Guide, which we can certainly submit articles to Leawood Lifestyle Magazine and see if they will put something in there. I do not have any control over that anymore. But the certainly might if we give them contact information.

Parks and Recreation has a pretty good communication group.

Joe Johnson-They are the only ones that have that avenue.

John Kahl-Parks and Recreation seems to be more interactive with the populus than many of the other departments. We have Parks for the public. Public Works takes care of roads and stormsewers and while that is for th epublic you are not necessarialy having a direct public interaction. It's not a facility where they go and enjoy it, they have it as a benefit but they don't really think about it like they do a Park. A Park is an active use that the want to go use and find out what kinds of things are going on. It would make sense as the Parks & Rec has more of a direct interface with the general public than any of the rest of the government does.

Debra Filla-How do you do a match for native plants verses rain gardens.

Joe Johnson-To get reimbursed by the County you have to follow their guidelines, now maybe Lenexa allows you to use some natural plants that they (the City) reimburses. I do not know. They take the County's money and then they put in their own money. If we are going to get reimburse by the County, we have to follow their guidelines. The policy is written for rain gardens, native vegetation beds. We would follow the policy that is on line because that is what the County has as their requirement for reimbursement. Lenexa, Olathe-Olathe does not participate as Olathe has their own program that they administer. Theirs is City dollars. Overland Park, Lenexa, Shawnee have a stand alone group that does all this. We do not.

James Azeltine-Could you go to our site and show us what we have on there now?

Julie Stasi-advised that in our applicaton there are a couple of links and those were printed out and placed in todays packet.

Deb Filla-Notice how many clicks you have to get to to find it.

Joe Johnson-There are a couple of different ways. Stormwater, BMP Cost Share Program.

Carole Lechevin-The "BMP Costshare Program" doesn't really mean anything words wise to the regular viewer.

Deb Filla-But cost share what? Stormwater?

James Azeltine-We don't have to call it that do we? We should come up with a snappy name or something.

Lisa Harrison-I'd like to see the web site designed so different things are scrolling across there that might be interest for lay people. So people can find things easier.

Julie Stasi-Such as "Butterfly Gardens and Rain Barrels, Native Planting and Tree informaton"...

Deb Filla-For our info, we have been flooding the HOAs with information and still do not get much response.

Lisa Harrison-I do not think the HOA's have been communicating with their people like they used to. We used to get newsletters and do not see those anymore.

Debra Filla-So to the snappy title idea that you had, I think that part of that BMP Cost Sharing Program the county suggested last time was that everybody is interested in the Monarch Butterflies and creating butterfly gardens. So I think we could say there is matching dollars for butterfly gardens, rain barrels, native plantings/rain gardens and trees. And it you put it that way, now I care about matching dollars. Back on the Home Page, not the Departments, but the main Home Page of the City and at the top somehow. Or to Homes Associations and then Resources.

Debra Filla-Advised we created pictures on the Web site. Go under Home Owner Association. There is a link called "City News for HOA's". There are several images to click on that take the person to different areas.

Joe Johnson-It is a 50% match. If you spend \$300.00 you can get \$150 back.

Debra Filla-Advised that she would like to see us take our flyers and brochures to get the word out. There are three places to suggest trying, Suburban Lawn & Garden at 107th & Roe in Overland Park, Ranch Mart Hardware at 95th & Mission and the Hardware Store at Corninth Shops in Prairie Village. Also, she knows Mark in Information Services can create a URL for us maybe something like Leawood.orgmatchingdollars. and it can take you to the places on Parks & Rec and to the places under SAB and HOA. We can have a short URL that he can create to contact all those places.

The Committee discussed more ways the Leawood BMP Program could be advertised and that the information needs to be easier to find on the City's Web Site. More contact with our Parks & Recreation Guide/newsletters and with our Information Services Department in Web presentation and wording. Chair Azeltine said he would like to have some brochures or something to hand out for when we have educational meetings or want to provide information on the program with residents as offered.

Carole Lechevin-Asked if there was some way we could partner with some of the other cities that have a better success rate with this program. If not, for example Lenexa has people at all their City events with a set up table and someone there to explain the programs. Knows we do not have the staff for it, but they really promote their programs.

Debra Filla-Was not sure the other cities would want to and actually we have the talent here and a great I.S. Department that with a little tweaking should be able to promote this.

John Kahl-Also remember, Lenexa has its own utility for this and the staff. Who will be the one doing it for Leawood?

Chair Azeltine-Said he and Deb Filla had had their own argument on this topic awhile back and he lost. He thinks this could be part of the SAB Committee "Sustainability Advisory Board".

Debra Filla-Well I think they would support it, but thinks the funding comes from Joe's Department and the County through their offices.

Julie Stasi-Advised Michelle Sherry, our Special Projects Engineer is the staff person we have that coordinates the BMP Program. Also Michelle and Julie both are planning to attend the Johnson County Workshop May 17th, held at the Library at 87th & Antioch during an evening session (flyer in packet). This information was also sent to our Facebook Media.

Joe Johnson-Wanted to bring this up as we are having a good conversation. In review of all the cities that participate in the BMP Program here is what happened last year in looking at all the participants Lenexa, Mission, Overland Park, and Shawnee. We are spending a lot of time and a lot of money that has a minimum impact in Johnson County wide. When you look at half a million people, and you get 52 people to participate. When you look at it, knocking ourselves out to try to get this and we have 52 people in Johnson County that has used this. My staff is packed to the max. We take on all these other things and no increases in staff or funding. So we need to put our resources where things are at. So when I look at this, I see that we have it on our web page, we

send out Facebook media. Julie and Michelle are going to be at one of the Johnson County Events here May 17th to answer questions. But when you look at who is participating we are spending a lot of resources for a total county participates of 52. It's difficult to make more people "Like" us on Facebook. It's a good program and this is our third or fourth year and I think we have had five (5) people total take advantage of it.

David Lindley-I think you improve the communication and other than that I'm not sure where else you can go.

James Azeltine-Look at the model-Lenexa. Eleven rain barrels and fourteen rain gardens. That is good for them. But like you said in the big scheme of things...

Joe Johnson-And they have a population of 50,000 people. If we were adding lots and lots of people I'd say, let's go for it!

John Kahl-I have been in stormwater most of my career and when you are a stormwater engineer and you see a lot and a channel and you think -ew, flooding and erosion and whatever. And what I have discovered in my lifetime is most people don't think like I do. So really the only people that think much about stormwater are the people that live somewhere and they have been flooded, or they live somewhere and they have had a severe erosion problem. And everyone else doesn't think about it until it's raining real hard and the water is deep into their back yard. Maybe it's other priorities but until people have a problem it is not a priority for them. Trying to force people to make it a priority for them is very difficult. It may be an uphill challenge. But we can try to emphasize all of this and make all of this available. I do not know that we will get a substantial increase unless we get an increase in the amount of people that are being flooded or experiencing a severe erosion problem.

James Azeltine-Since you are a stormwater expert do you think that this program has a meaningful effect on stormwater?

John Kahl-Direct physical effect? No. Getting people to be more global in their thinking and so things like painting a fish on a stormwater manhole. So that people know that this goes to the creek, it doesn't just go to some sewer treatment plant. Increasing awareness. Those types of things are beneficial. Planting trees, there is all kinds of studies that show for every tree you get some decrease in stormwater runoff. So if we can plant more trees that is good. But to do it here and then a few miles over in another spot and then do another one two ponds over-that has no measurable effect. So there is no direct physical effect from these kinds of programs unless we scale them up by a factor of about 10,000.

Debra Filla-And now I think they are showing that native grasses are equivalent to a forest.

John Kahl-Yes. And these are all good things. But this is just such a little drop in the bucket. Like I said if we scale that up by a factor of about 10,000 now we have had a meaningful effect. But going from this little bit to 10,000 more of them I don't think we are going to get the effect.

James Azeltine-Do you think this belongs into the purview marketing this, of our Committee?

John Kahl-Well, it's-yeah I think we should be pushing to make this as easily available and accessible as possible. But when we're talking about making too many clicks to get there. Okay if we are going to make this few clicks to get there, what on the web site is going to then require more clicks to get there? It is a matter of prioritizing what kinds of information the City wants to put out on their web site. And then what the priority of that information is. And I do not know that this information deserves to be a higher priority than some of the other things that are on the web site. Honestly I do not know what all is on the web site as I do not spend much time there.

Debra Filla-It is a multi-faceted approach. I can see that the Nature Center would be helping with advertising when they are doing container planting classes. They are doing seed classes. So they have a format. We can make sure that that is leveraged. The green team is working with the Homes Associations. I think the question here is how do we create the master blueprint and then ask other people to help promote it. I'd like to see us create a couple posters to put in the three places that I've mentioned. I would be happy to work with our Admin. Graphics Technician on brochures and work with Chris Claxton our Parks and Recreation Director on trying to incorporate this. Our Community Gardens Task force are thinking about planting things that will attract butterflies. So people are really thoughtful about butterflies and there has been a lot of press on it.

John Kahl-I would argue that the people that tend to go to the Nature Center are the people that are going to be the most prone to think that this is good. So target your audience. I don't know that the Lions Club would be the place to put it, but the Gardens Club or the Nature Center would be great.

James Azeltine-Joe said something a few minutes ago and I really appreciate you saying this about your limited resources of your staff and how you have to prioritize. So as we discuss this, I think it is very important to think about anything that we decide to do. Somebody on staff is going to have this thrown in their lap. The way the City's Committee structure is formatted, each committee has staff liaisons. And so that is kind of the way it is supposed to flow. We do not get an issue here unless it is referred to us by Staff or by the Governing Body. So we need to decide is it, do we want our staff to handle this. We could talk and come up with all kinds of great ideas of marketing this program, but in the final analysis do we want our staff spending their time doing it. Our task here is to go back to the Council with a recommendation. And that recommendation should be either "YEAH" we want the staff to dig into this thing based on our discussion / or "NO" we think we put it up on the web site and let nature take its course.

ACTION: Debra Filla made a Motion to recommend to the Council that staff create posters and brochures on the BMP Program in order to share this information and for educational purposes; and collaborate with Information Services Department, the Parks & Recreation Department (cross departmental) and the Sustainability Committee in marketing our material in order to provide a linkage about the program/offering of funds. Carole Lechevin seconded the Motion. All members in attendance were for the Motion. Motion passed.

Staff again noted these recommendations would be presented at a June Council Meeting.

Chair Azeltine adjourned the meeting at 8:55 A.M.

Minutes recorded by: Julie Stasi, Leawood Public Works Department